

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

16. (currently amended) A cutting element as defined in claim ~~12~~51, further comprising an axially engageable structure.
17. (currently amended) A cutting element as defined in claim ~~16~~51, wherein said axially engageable structure is a generally circular groove formed in the mounting structure.
18. CANCEL CLAIM 18.
19. CANCEL CLAIM 19.
26. CANCEL CLAIM 26.
27. CANCEL CLAIM 27.
28. CANCEL CLAIM 28.
29. CANCEL CLAIM 29.
30. CANCEL CLAIM 30.
51. (currently amended) A replaceable cutting element ~~suitable to be~~ for use mounted on the body of a earth-boring drag bit off center from the axis of rotation of said bit, the element comprising:

a contact structure including a cutting tip structure and a cutting tapered structure,

the tip structure and the tapered structure being concentric with the overall element.

a mounting structure supporting the tip and tapered structure;

the contact structure is generally conical surrounding the tip structure ~~bilaterally symmetric~~ with a generally obtuse included angle of the tapered structure.
52. CANCEL CLAIM 52
53. (currently amended) A cutting element as in claim 51, wherein a portion of the tip structure is harder than 92 on the Rockwell A Scale and an outer portion of the tapered structure is softer than 92 on the Rockwell A Scale.
54. CANCEL CLAIM 54

55. (currently amended) A cutting element as in claim 51, wherein the ~~tip~~ tip structure comprises a point.
56. (currently amended) A cutting element as in claim 51, including an engagable structure comprising:
a non-cylindrical surface ~~suitable for the engagement of~~ engagable by an extraction tool.
57. (original) A cutting element as set forth in claim 51, including:
a conical helical screw thread on the mounting structure concentric with the contact structure of the element.
58. (original) A cutting element as in claim 51, wherein at least a portion of said tip structure is fabricated from one of a group of materials comprising diamond, a nitride of a metallic element, a carbide of a metallic element, an oxide of a metallic element carbide, a boride of at least one metallic element, a silicide of a metallic element, and carbon nitride.
59. (currently amended) An elongated self-locking replaceable cutting element ~~suitable for use mounted~~ on the body of a rotary earth-boring drag bit off center from the axis of rotation of said bit, the element comprising:
a contact structure comprising a cutting tip structure₂;
a mounting structure carrying the contact structure, and;
a conical helical screw thread on the mounting structure wherein: the cutting tip structure and the mounting structure are formed generally along the same axis₂ and a portion of said cutting tip structure is generally bilaterally symmetrical in at least three equally spaced radial directions from the axis of the element.
60. (currently amended) A cutting element as claimed in claim 59, wherein the included angle of the conical helix is between ½° and 60°.

61. (currently amended) A self-sharpening rotatable cutting element ~~suitable for use~~ mounted on the body of an earth-boring drag bit off center from the axis of rotation of said bit, the element comprising:
- a contact structure including a cutting tip structure and a cutting tapered structure
formed generally along the same axis;
 - a mounting structure carrying said cutting tip and tapered structure;
 - a non-cylindrical structure for the engagement and removal of the element;
 - a first material of wear resistance on the cutting tip, ~~and~~;
 - a second region of material of a second wear resistance on the tapered structure fully
surrounding and supporting the first material wherein ~~the~~ wear resistance of
said first material is greater than the wear resistance of said second material,
said tapered structure surrounds and generally converges with said tip
structure; ~~and~~,
 - a portion of said first material is generally contained within said second material;
 - a portion of the mounting structure is generally symmetrical in at least three
equally spaced radial directions, and;
 - the axis of the mounting structure is generally aligned with the axis of the tapered
structure.
62. (original) A cutting element as in claim 61, wherein said first material is in the form of a column positioned on the axis of the contact structure.
63. (previously amended) A cutting element as in claim 61 wherein the cross-sectioned area of said material of first hardness is less than 10% of the total cross-sectioned areas of the contact structure.